free from terrorism and violence, and to discuss any outstanding bilateral issue with Pakistan, including Jammu and Kashmir.

Relaxation in Visa norms for Artists

3150. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether visa facilities for artists, film personalities and literary people between India/Pak and SAARC countries have been relaxed;

(b) If so, the particulars of two way visa/visits arranged during the last 3 years along-with the names of the artists etc.;

(c) the role of the ICCR and the outgo of funds from it on visits/travel grants and incoming troupe; and

(d) the names of the Governing body members of ICCR for the last six years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No Sir.

(b) Details of visits sponsored by ICCR to SAARC countries and from SAARC countries hosted by ICCR during the last three years are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The primary objective of the Council is to establish, revive and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. The expenditure incurred on visits of artists during the last three years was Rs. 434.49 lakhs in 2001-02, Rs. 721.17 lakhs in 2002-03 and Rs. 927.01 lakhs in 2003-04.

(d) The names of Governing Body members of ICCR for the last six years may please be seen in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of two way visits arranged by ICCR from SAARC countries Incoming Performing Delegation

Year	Country	Name of the Delegation
1	2	3
2001-02	Nepal	9-Member Dance Group from 14-23 January, 2002
2002-03	Nepal	10-Member Folk Dance & Music of Sanskritik Sansthan from 10-18 September, 2002

1	2	3
	Bhutan	22-Member Song & Dance Group from 23 February-4 march, 2003
	Sri Lanka	6-Member String Puppets by Saranga Puppeteers from 27 September—6 October, 2003
2003-04	Sri Lanka	10-Member Dance & Music Group from 21 January-3 February, 2004
	Pakistan	27-Member Ajokha Theatre Group led by Ms Madeeha Gauhar from 17—23 June, 2004.

Outgoing Performing Delegations

Year	Name of the Country	Name of the Group
1	2	3
2001-02	Nepal	Ms. Alarmel Valli (Bharatanatyam)x 6 from 24—26 May, 2001 Ms. Priti Patel (Manipuri)x 10 from 14—18 August, 2001 Ms. Kumudini Lakhia (Kathak)x 11 from 4—7 September, 2001
	Sri Lanka	Ms. Sonal Mansingh (Odissi)x 6 from 16—22 July, 2001 Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi (Sufi Kathak) x 6 from 29 July-1 August, 2001 Kalakshetra Dance & Drama Group x 25 from 14—19 March, 2002
	Bangladesh	Shri Ronu Majumdar (Flute) x 3 from 10—13 Sptember, 2001 Nandikar (Theatre) x 16 from 14—18 January, 2002 Shri Bansi Kaul (Theatre) x 20 from 11—13 January, 2002 Shri Kanhaiyalal (Manipuri Theatre) x 18 from 12—14 January, 2002 Shri Kedar Nath Sahoo (Chhau) x 12 from 13—15 January, 2002 Ms. Shruti Sadolikar/Ms Shubha Mudgal (Hindustani Vocal) x 4 from 18—21 March, 2002 Shri Buddhadev Dasgupta (Sarod) x 3 from 17—20 March, 2002
	Pakistan	Ustad Asad Ali Khan (Rudra Veena) x 3 from 16-17 August, 2001
2002-03	Nepal	Ms. M. Lalitha and M. Nandini (Violin) x 6 from 6—9 January, 2003

1	2	3
		Shri Kamal Das (Rajasthani Folk) x 10 from 24—30 January, 2003
	Bhutan	Ms. Sanjivini (Popular) x 8 from 12—22 August, 2002
	Sri Lanka	Shrabani Chatterjee (Rabindra Sangeet) x 4 from 18—23 June, 2002 Umrao Khan Langa (Rajasthani Folk) x 10 from 20—30 December, 2002
	Bangladesh	Shri Anant Lal (Shehnai) x 5 from 5—10 August, 2002 Ms. Gulabo Sapera (Rajasthani Folk) x 10 from 6—10 August, 2002 Ms. Rita Ganguly (Theatre/Vocal) x 7 from 11—20 September, 2002 Ms. Geeta Mahalik (Odissi) x 5 from 9—12 December, 2002 Shri Vikash Maharaj (Sarod) x 3 from 8—11 December, 2002 Ms. Parwati Dutta (Kathak) x 5 from 20—25 January, 2003 Virasat Entertainers (Bhangra & Giddha) x 12 from 14—19 March, 2003 Shri Jagdeep Singh Bedi (Sitar) x 3 from 14—19 March, 2003
2003-04	Nepal	Shri Rajendra Prasanna (Flute) x 5 during June, 2003 Shri Vikku Vinayakram (Percussion) x 7 from 14—21 August, 2003
	Bhutan	Shri Rajendra Prassanna (Flute) x 5 during June, 2003 "Kadamb" Kathak dance group x 6 during June, 2003 Ms. Tanusree Shankar (Modern) x 12 during July, 2003
	Sri Lanka	Mizoram Group x 10 from 10—20 August, 2003 Ms. Madhuri Raghunath Patil x 5 during July, 2003 Shri Hariharan Nair (Carnatic Vocal) x 5 from 24—27 November, 2003 Ms. Geeta Sepera (Rajasthani Folk Dance) x 10 from 20—30 December, 2003
	Bangladesh	Ms. Tanusree Shankar (Modern Dance) x 12 during August, 2003 Kashmiri Folk Dance & Music Group led by Shri Randhir Kumar from 19—22 December, 2003 Ms. Malashri Prasad (Hindustani Classical Vocal) x 5 from 30 March-4 April, 2004 Shri Johar Ali (Fusion Music) x 4 from 30 March-4 April, 2004

Incoming Visitors

Year	Name of the Country	Name of the Visitor
1	2	3
2001-02	Nepal	Mr. Uttam Nepali, a renowned painter and Hindi Poet from 28 October-11 November, 2001 Mr. Til Bikram Nembang (Literary name "Bairagi Kainla"), an eminent Nepali Poet from 28 October-11 November, 2001 Mr. Kiran Manandhar, a renowned painter from 28 October-11 November, 2001
	Bangladesh	Prof. (Dr.) Enamul Haque, Chairman & Academic Director, International Centre for Study of Bengal Art & his wife Prof. Zulekha Haque, Historian from 3—15 December, 2001. Prof. Mohamadul Haque, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka from 9—19 March, 2002. Prof. Shafiqunabee Samadi, Chairman, Department of Music & Dramatics, Rajshahi University, Dhaka from 18 March-2 April, 2002.
	Sri Lanka	Pt. Amardeva, Sinhalese Musician and his son from 1—8 March, 2002
2002-03	Nepal	Mr. Ram Prit Paswan, Deputy Chairman, National Assembly of Nepal from 23—30 March, 2003 Mrs. Chitralekha Yadav, Deputy Speaker of Pratinidhi Sabha, Nepal from 23—30 March, 2003.
	Bangladesh	Dr. Karunamaya Goswami eminent Writer and Musicologist from 16—25 September, 2002
	Sri Lanka	Deshmanya Maurice Dias Chitrasena, Dancer, Choreographer and his wife Mrs. Vajira Chitrasena from 26 March-3 April, 2003 Prof Daya Edinisnghe from 29 March-1 April, 2003
	Maldives	Mr. Abbas Ibrahim, Chairman, National Centre for Linguistic and Historical Research from 31 March-13 April, 2003
2003-04	Bangladesh	Dr. Rajiv Humayun, Professor of Linguistics, University of Dhaka from 15 September-14 December, 2003. Prof. Alamgir Serajuddin, Professor of History, Chittagong University from 26 September-25 December, 2003. Dr. Md. Iqbal Bhuiyan, Professor of Bengali, University of Chittagong from 28 September-27 December, 2003. Mrs. Sufia Akhtar Kazi, Freelance Consultant, Environment Issues, Uttara, Dhaka from 27 September-26 December, 2003.

1	2	3
	Sri Lanka	Mr. Prasanna Vithanage from 18—27 July, 2003 Prof. Jayadeva Uyangada, Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science & Public Policy, University of Colombo from 21 September-2 October, 2003 Mrs. Arunthathi Sri Renganathan, Carnatic Vocal Musician during January-February, 2004.

Outgoing Visitors

Year	Name of the Country	Name of the Visitor
2001-02	Nepal	Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra, Chairman, National Book Trust from 21—25 September, 2001
	Bangladesh	Prof. Uma Chakravarty, Professor of History, University of Delhi from 10—13 December 2001
	Sri Lanka	Prof. Syed Shahid Mahdi, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia from 23—26 June, 2001 Ms. M Shanthamani, Artist, Bangalore from 7—23 October, 2001
2002-03	Sri Lanka	Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy, Scholar from 30 September—5 October, 2002 Shri Jyoti Ranjan Panigrahi, Painter, Delhi from 13—29 October, 2002
2003-04	Bhutan	Dr. Permanand, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi from 29 May-9 June, 2003
	Sri Lanka	Shri G.R. Iranna, Artist from 13—24 October, 2003

Statement-II

Names of the Governing Body Members for the last six years

2000-2003 (8th May, 2000 to 8th September, 2003)

1. Shri Krishan Kant, Vice-President of India/President, ICCR *(till his demise in July, 2002)*
2. Shri H.Y. Sharada Prasad, Vice-President, ICCR
3. Foreign Secretary
4. Shri Ramakanta Rath, Vice-President, ICCR
5. Shri Himachal Som, Director General, ICCR

6 Financial Advisor, MEA
7. Secretary (Education)
8. Secretary (Culture)
9. Shri Vinod Khanna, MP *(till 20th January, 2003)/Vacant thereafter*
10. Smt. Shyama Singh, MP
11. Smt. Jayaprada Nahata, MP *(till 9th April, 2002) Vacant thereafter*
12. Chairman, SNA
13. Ms. Shobhana Bhartia
14. Shri A.N. Ram
15. Shri Satish Gujral

(9th September, 2003-till date)

1. Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, President, ICCR
2. Shri D.P. Sinha, Vice-President, ICCR
3. Shri S.S. Sohoni, Vice-President, ICCR
4. Foreign Secretary
5. Smt. Shyama Singh, MP, Lok Sabha *(till 6th February, 2004) replaced by Shri Krishna Murari Moghe, MP (Lok Sabha)*
6. Shri Pradip Yadav, MP, Lok Sabha *(till 6th February, 2004) replaced by Shri Shriniwas D. Patil, MP, Lok Sabha*
7. Shri Jana Krishnamurthy K., MP
8. Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director General, ICCR
9. Financial Advisor, MEA
10. Secretary (Education)
11. Secretary (Culture)
12. President, Sahitya Akademi
13. Smt. Saroja Vaidyanathan
14. Ms. Tina Ambani
15. Dr. Devendra Triguna
16. Shri B.P. Singh